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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following references, which are listed on Form PTO-1449 (**Exhibit A**).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3) before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Thus, this Information Disclosure Statement should be entered and considered.

The above-identified application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of U.S. Serial No. 09/728,229, filed December 1, 2000. Copies of the documents listed below have previously been submitted to, or cited by the U.S. Patent Office in connection with U.S. Serial No. 09/728,229. Therefore, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of the previously submitted documents are not provided.

In addition, applicants note that the applications which matured into the patents listed below as items 25-29 were previously submitted to the U.S. Patent Office in connection with U.S. Serial No. 09/728,229. Pursuant to the Notice appearing in the August 5, 2003 Official Gazette, as this application is being filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the disclosed U.S. Patents are not provided.

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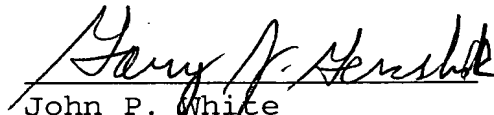
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Applicants request that the Examiner review the references and make them of record in the subject application.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment and Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



John P. White
Registration No. 28,678
Gary J. Gershik
Registration No. 39,992
Attorneys for Applicants
Cooper & Dunham LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 278-0400

Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. 60390-AZ-PCT- US/JPW/GJG/JBC		Serial No. Not Yet Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicants: Arlindo L. Castelhana, et al.			
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Examiner Initial		Document Number							Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
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														Yes	No
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	WO	9	4	1	3	6	7	6	6/23/94	PCT;					
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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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	WO	9	6	1	9	4	7	8	6/27/96	PCT;			
	WO	9	7	0	5	1	3	8	2/13/94	PCT;			
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	WO	9	8	2	9	3	9	7	7/9/98	PCT;			
	WO	9	8	5	7	6	5	1	12/23/98	PCT;			

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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Atty. Docket No. 60390-AZ-PCT- US/JPW/GJG/JBC		Serial No. Not Yet Known						
						Applicants: Arlindo L. Castelhana, et al.								
						Filing Date Herewith		Group						
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS														
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		WO	9	8	2	2	4	6	5	5/28/98	PCT;			
		WO	9	9	0	6	0	5	3	2/11/99	PCT;			
		WO	9	9	0	8	4	6	0	2/18/99	PCT;			
		WO	9	9	3	3	8	1	5	7/18/99	PCT;			
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		WO	9	9	6	2	5	1	8	12/9/99	PCT;			
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	IN	0	1	5	7	2	8	0	2/22/86	IN;	
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	JP	9	2	9	1	0	8	9	5/11/99	JP;		
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